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ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: DETECTION, IDENTIFICATION AND DIFFERENTIATION OF EUBACTERIAL TAXA USING A HYBRIDIZA-
TION ASSAY

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method for the specific detection and/or identification of *Staphylococcus* species, in particular *Staphylococcus aureus*, using new nucleic acid sequences derived from the ITS (Internal Transcribed Spacer) region. The present invention relates also to said new nucleic acid sequences derived from the ITS region, between the 16S and 23S ribosomal ribonucleic acid (rRNA) or rRNA genes, to be used for the specific detection and/or identification of *Staphylococcus* species, in particular of *S. aureus*, in a biological sample. It relates also to nucleic acid primers to be used for the amplification of said spacer region of *Staphylococcus* species in a sample.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, BIOSIS

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
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| A | * especially, Table 1a, col 55: see SEQ ID No 53 (STAU-ICG 1; 30 nt in length) exhibits a 100% identity in overlap with SEQ ID NO 25 (29 nt) of the present application; claims 5,6; example 9 | 1,2,5-15 |
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| A | SEQ #4977 (91% and 100% overlap in 58 nt); #5031 (94% and 100% overlap in 54 nt) with respectively SEQ ID NOs 1 and 2 of the application. | 1,2,5-15 |
| | ----- -/-- | |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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PCT/EP 03/13907

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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| Patent document cited in search report | | Publication date | | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
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